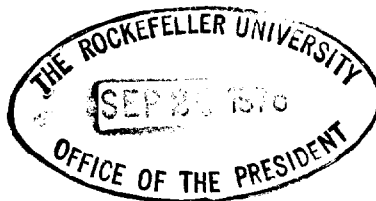


THE
UNIVERSITY
OF UTAH



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
201 BIOLOGY BUILDING
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84112
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September 20, 1978

Joshua Lederberg, President
The Rockefeller University
66th Street and York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Josh:

I had a conversation with Gordon Lark a day ago that made it seem important that I send this note. Gordon said (a) that the N.S.F. was opening a new, top administrative position in "physiology, cellular, and developmental biology" (relevant ad from Science enclosed), (b) that Herman Lewis who had done an excellent job in virtually the same N.S.F. position for several years but had been "kicked up" in a political shuffle, would be applying for the new post, and that (c) Lewis's application would be greatly aided by letters recommending his reappointment (addressed to Dr. Eloise Clark, Head; Biology Section; National Science Foundation; Washington, D.C.) from people in the scientific community who might be familiar with his abilities and particularly from those, like yourself, with significant visibility and credibility. Gordon also said that genetics, not presently intended to be part of the N.S.F. administrative division in question might be added to it, at considerable advantage if Lewis were its head, if arguments for such inclusion were also forthcoming from credible sources.

I don't know Lewis and have no personal feel for the service he has already provided as an N.S.F. administrator. But I do have an enormous respect for Gordon Lark's judgments regarding academic (and peri-academic?) administration, the performances of administrators, and the politics of administrative appointment. So the sense of concern and urgency he communicated, plus his remark that the situation might have escaped the notice of many who would be interested in it, were enough to prompt this note.

I hope the realities of Rockefeller and N.Y.C. are proving reasonably consistent with their promise. Mark Skolnick and I would much enjoy learning anything of your thoughts and progress. Can we be put on a press-release mailing list? ✓

Best as always to Marguerite.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence Okun".

Lawrence Okun

L0:tk

enclosure